



THE SHIELD OF FREEDOMTM

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



"Semper Paratus" ALWAYS READY

**THE “SHIELD OF FREEDOM” EMBODIES
THE COAST GUARD’S MANY ROLES AS
A UNIQUE INSTRUMENT FOR AMERICA’S
SAFETY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.**

► ► PROTECTING ►





MILITARY. MULTI-MISSION. MARITIME.

The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service; one of America's five Armed Services. We operate within the Department of Homeland Security and are comprised of military, civilian, reservist and auxilialist personnel to accomplish our missions.

We protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests — in the Nation's ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters and in any maritime region as required to support national security.

We do this with a small, tightly-organized and highly-versatile force of highly trained personnel and flexible sea, air and land vehicles.

Taken together, the Coast Guard's combination of military status, law enforcement authority and humanitarian reputation gives us a unique role among the Armed Forces of the United States.

True to our tradition and our motto, *Semper Paratus*, we stand "always ready" to serve.

► DEFENDING ► ► SERVING





BEHIND THE SHIELD — MANY ROLES

Defending America's homeland is nothing new for the Coast Guard. We perform many roles under a vast array of responsibilities such as:

Defender

As one of America's five Armed Services, the Coast Guard has extensive responsibilities in national defense. These responsibilities have become more pronounced with the rise of international terrorism and the resulting need for increased homeland security. We are responsible for countering potential threats to America's coasts, ports and inland waterways. In times of war, we deploy overseas to support war efforts, most recently to the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lifesaver

The Coast Guard is renowned throughout the world as "America's Lifesavers." Our search-and-rescue and lifesaving traditions have deep roots in our history and are fundamental to this mission.

Law Enforcer

Since 1790, the Coast Guard has been America's primary maritime law enforcement service. Our responsibilities include drug interdiction, alien migrant interdiction, living marine resource law and treaty enforcement and general maritime law enforcement.

Guardian

The men and women of the Coast Guard are guardians of our natural resources and fragile marine environment. We ensure compliance with fishery regulations designed to save threatened

and endangered species including whales, sea turtles, seals, and porpoises. Our vessels and aircraft patrol numerous National Marine Sanctuaries and other marine protected areas.

Protector

We develop operating and construction standards for commercial and recreational vessels, enforce compliance with these standards, license commercial mariners and operate the International Ice Patrol to protect ships transiting the North Atlantic shipping lanes.

Facilitator

The Coast Guard establishes and administers navigation rules and electronic navigation aids such as GPS and LORAN; maintains waterways to keep them clear and open for shipping and boating; maintains buoys that help ships navigate safely; provides icebreaking services to keep supply routes open and safe year-round; administers bridge planning, lighting and operation over navigable waters to ensure safe flows of waterborne and land traffic and provides other facilitative services that strengthen America's global reach in trade and commerce, transportation and world affairs.

Educator

As part of our extensive prevention efforts, the Coast Guard conducts widespread public education programs in boating safety and conducts courtesy marine examinations of boats for compliance with federal and state safety requirements. The all-volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary plays a central role in these efforts.

FAST FACTS

On a typical day, the Coast Guard will:

- ▶ Save 11 lives
- ▶ Assist 328 people in distress
- ▶ Protect \$2.8 million in property
- ▶ Investigate 17 marine accidents

- ▶ Intercept 176 illegal immigrants at sea
- ▶ Conduct 109 search and rescue cases
- ▶ Seize \$9.6 million worth of illegal drugs

- ▶ Respond to 20 oil and hazardous chemical spills
- ▶ Educate 502 people in boating safety courses
- ▶ Process 238 seaman's documents
- ▶ Conduct 377 courtesy safety checks



A PROUD HISTORY OF SERVICE

Since its founding in 1790 as the Revenue Marine, the Coast Guard has performed a wide variety of defense, law enforcement and humanitarian tasks. In the process, it has built a proud tradition and respected reputation for courageous service to our nation.

Seven years after the American Revolution, the Service's main mission was to enforce the collection of revenue from customs duties which were essential to the support of the fledgling nation. Even then, however, the Service performed multiple roles including assuring maritime safety by assisting in national defense.

Forces of the Service have participated in virtually all of America's maritime military engagements including the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Over the years, the Coast Guard has been assigned and has taken on increasingly diverse civil and military responsibilities for ensuring maritime security, maritime safety, protection of natural resources, maritime mobility and national defense.

Today, the Coast Guard serves as a uniquely varied and flexible instrument of civil safety, law enforcement and national and homeland security. It continues to build upon the proud reputation it has earned throughout our nation's history.



SOME KEY DATES IN COAST GUARD HISTORY

1789 U.S. Lighthouse Service established.

1790 Revenue Marine established. (Renamed U.S. Revenue Cutter Service by Congress in 1863.)

1838 Steamboat Inspection Service chartered.

1848 U.S. Life-Saving Service created.

1884 Bureau of Navigation formed.

1915 U.S. Coast Guard established in the U.S. Treasury Department by merging the Life-Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

1939 U.S. Lighthouse Service added to the Coast Guard.

1946 Steamboat Inspection Service and Bureau of Navigation are added to the Coast Guard.

1967 The Coast Guard transferred to the newly formed Department of Transportation.

2003 The Coast Guard transferred to the newly formed Department of Homeland Security.



HOW CITIZENS CAN HELP US

You Can Do Your Part for Homeland Security

Keep your distance from all military, cruise-line and commercial shipping vessels. Do not approach within 100 yards. Slow to minimum speed within 500 yards of any large U.S. naval vessel.

Observe and avoid all security zones. Avoid port operation areas, especially those that involve military, cruise-line, or petroleum facilities. Observe and avoid other restricted areas near dams, power plants, etc.

Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel. Doing so might arouse suspicion, which could result in a boarding by Coast Guard law enforcement officials.

Always secure and lock your boat when not aboard. This includes while visiting marina restaurants, a friend's dock, or other piers.

When storing your boat, make sure it is secure and its engine is disabled. If your boat is on a trailer, make the trailer as immovable as possible.

Keep a sharp eye out for and immediately report anything that looks peculiar or out of the ordinary. Report suspicious activity to local authorities, the Coast Guard, or port or marina security officials, or call the **National Response Center's Terrorist Hotline at 1.800.424.8802.** Do not approach or challenge those acting in a suspicious manner.

If you observe dangerous behavior on or near the waterfront, contact local law enforcement IMMEDIATELY.



WHAT TO LOOK FOR AND REPORT

- ▶ Suspicious persons conducting unusual activities near bridges or high security areas on or near the water.
- ▶ Individuals establishing roadside stands near marinas or other waterfront facilities.
- ▶ Unknown persons photographing or creating diagrams of such things as the underside of bridges, the area around nuclear power, oil, and chemical plants, entrances to tunnels, fuel docks and waterfront facilities near military, cruise-line, or commercial vessels.
- ▶ Unknown or suspicious persons loitering for extended periods in waterfront areas.
- ▶ Suspicious vendors attempting to sell or deliver merchandise or drop off packages in waterfront areas.





Homeland
Security

**WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AT:**

WWW.USCG.MIL



For more information, please call the nearest
Public Affairs Office:

► **First Coast Guard District**
Boston, MA 617.223.8515

► **Fifth Coast Guard District**
Portsmouth, VA 757.398.6272

► **Seventh Coast Guard District**
Miami, FL 305.415.6683

► **Eighth Coast Guard District**
New Orleans, LA 504.589.6287

► **Ninth Coast Guard District**
Cleveland, OH 216.902.6020/21

► **Eleventh Coast Guard District**
Alameda, CA 510.437.3319

► **Thirteenth Coast Guard District**
Seattle, WA 206.220.7237

► **Fourteenth Coast Guard District**
Honolulu, HI 808.541.2121

► **Seventeenth Coast Guard District**
Juneau, AK 907.463.2071

TIPS FOR SAFE BOATING

- ▶ **Make sure your boat meets all safety requirements and regulations.** Getting a Vessel Safety Check is an important first step. To arrange for a free check, contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadron.
- ▶ **Know and obey the navigation rules by taking a boating safety class.** To learn more about boating classes in your area, call 1.800.336.2628.
- ▶ **Remain sober and alert when on the water. Don't drink and boat.** Stay in control of your craft and respect the rights of other boaters.
- ▶ **Wear your life jacket at all times while out on the water!** The single biggest cause of boating deaths is drowning due to unexpected entry into the water. Do yourself and your loved ones a favor. Find a well-fitting life jacket. There's one for every budget. And wear it!